

# Respiratory Hazards

WAC 296-841-100

## Scope

Scope



This chapter applies **only** if your employees:

- Are exposed to a respiratory hazard
- or**
- Could be exposed to one of the specific hazards listed below.

This chapter applies to any workplace with potential or actual employee exposure to respiratory hazards. It requires you to protect employees from respiratory hazards by applying this protection strategy:

- Evaluate employee exposures to determine if controls are needed
- Use feasible controls. For example, enclose or confine the operation, use ventilation systems, or substitute with less toxic material
- Use respirators if controls aren't feasible or if they can't completely remove the hazard.



### Definition:

***Exposed or exposure*** - The contact an employee has with a toxic substance, harmful physical agent or oxygen deficient condition, whether or not protection is provided by respirators or other personal protective equipment (PPE). Exposure can occur through various routes of entry, such as inhalation, ingestion, skin contact, or skin absorption.

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WAC 296-841-100

## Scope

### WAC 296-841-100 (Continued)



**Note:**

- Examples of substances that may be respiratory hazards when airborne include:
  - Chemicals listed in Table 3
  - Any substance
    - Listed in the latest edition of the NIOSH Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances
    - For which positive evidence of an acute or chronic health hazard exists through tests conducted by, or known to, the employer
    - That may pose a hazard to human health as stated on a material safety data sheet kept by, or known to, the employer
  - Atmospheres considered oxygen deficient
  - Biological agents such as harmful bacteria, viruses or fungi
    - Examples include airborne TB aerosols and anthrax
  - Pesticides with a label requirement for respirator use
  - Chemicals used as crowd control agents such as pepper spray
  - Chemicals present at clandestine drug labs.
- These substances can be airborne as dusts, fibers, fogs, fumes, mists, gases, smoke, sprays, vapors, or aerosols.

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### WAC 296-841-100 (Continued)



#### Reference:

- Substances in Table 3 that are marked with an X in the "skin" column may require personal protective equipment (PPE). See WAC 296-800-160, Personal protective equipment, for additional information and requirements.
- If any of the following hazards are present in your workplace, you will need both this chapter and any of the following specific rules that apply:

Hazard	Rule that applies
Acrylonitrile	WAC 296-62-07336
Arsenic (inorganic)	WAC 296-62-07347
Asbestos	WAC 296-62-077
Benzene	WAC 296-62-07523
Butadiene	WAC 296-62-07460
Cadmium	WAC 296-62-074 through 296-62-07449 or 296-155-174
Carcinogens	Chapter 296-62 WAC, Part F
Coke ovens	Chapter 296-62 WAC, Part O
Cotton dust	Chapter 296-62 WAC, Part N
1, 2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane	WAC 296-62-07342
Ethylene oxide	WAC 296-62-07355
Formaldehyde	WAC 296-62-07540
Lead	WAC 296-62-07521 or 296-155-176
Methylene chloride	WAC 296-62-07470
Methylenedianiline	WAC 296-62-076 or 296-155-173
Thiram	WAC 296-62-07519
Vinyl chloride	WAC 296-62-07329

# Notes

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